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[Mr. Chairman]

Consideration of the following Official Bills.

			1 The Madras Co-operative Societies Bill, 1961.
			2 The Madras Cultivating Tenants Protection and Payment of Fair Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1961.
29th August 1961		3	3 The Madras Cultivating Tenants Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1961.
30th August 1961		4	4 The Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1961.
3 p.m.		5	5 The Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill, 1961.
31st August 1961		1	1 The Madras Appropriation Bill, 1961.
3 p.m.		2	2 Discussion on the Flood Situation.
1st September 1961			Non-official business.
3 p.m.			

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, May I suggest that, on the 28th as there may not be enough work for the day (for we have only discussion on the Supplementary estimates), we may include official business also for that day? I have consulted the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and he has agreed to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees, I have no objection. (After a pause) We will take up other official business also on the 28th in addition to the discussion of Supplementary Estimates.

III.—GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

DISCUSSION ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1961-62 AND SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1960-61 OF THE MADRAS STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD.

3-10
P.m.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much of the time of the House by way of offering my opening remarks on the Annual Financial Statement for 1961-62 and Supplementary Financial Statement for 1960-61 of the Madras State Electricity Board. I have already circulated a note on this which will enable hon. Members to have a good discussion on the working of the Electricity Board. The note does not merely enumerate what we have done during the course of the last year. This year being the first year of the Third Five-Year Plan, I have tried to give as much information as possible of what we have done during the First Plan period, what we have achieved during the Second Plan period, and what we intend to achieve during the Third Plan period. If we look into the note, we will find that we have concentrated not only on one side of development, but we have also tried to meet the demands which come from many types of consumers. We found during the Second Plan period there was great demand for rural electrification, particularly from agriculturists. The note brings out the importance we have given to rural electrification, and how this has created a new thinking in the minds of the agriculturists in the villages. I am extremely happy to note that in the Third Plan, as accepted by the Government of India, the opening paragraph on power development stresses the importance of the same thing that we have been trying to do all these years. The Planning Commission and the Government of India have recognised that rural electrification is not done merely

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to give lights to villages as some imagined. Rural electrification is now recognised by almost every one who studies the subject, as one which more than giving light to the villagers, changes the very outlook and the approach of every agriculturist. I should say, though we have spent a great deal of money in the matter of rural electrification, it is giving us very great hope. It gives us strength to get the best co-operation of the people in the villages for quick development. Nearly a quarter of the total power we generate goes into rural electrification. When we go into villages which have been electrified, we find people so much interested and active in agriculture and they feel that electricity is a great blessing to them. Many hon. Members who might have had opportunities of knowing what is taking place in Chingleput and North Arcot Districts will definitely understand how electricity has changed the phase of agricultural work. This is so not only in these two districts. It is so in almost all districts. Particularly in Madurai District I had the opportunity of travelling in the remotest parts, especially Perivakulam taluk, which is a dry area and a backward area. After the extension of electricity, I was surprised to see how the villagers there took great interest in agriculture, tried to get water lifted to unimaginable heights with pumps and carried the water for miles together from the nearest stream, thus making agriculture a paying thing to them. With this experience we intend during the Third Plan period to cover the entire State with rural electrification. Not only this, we intend to connect at least 75,000 pumpsets. This may be a modest figure. My personal feeling is we must not be content with only 75,000 pumpsets. The number should still go up. To the extent the number increases, we will be saving many of the problems and hardships of the agriculturists.

From our study of the rural electrification we notice another development in the villages. Another thinking has come up in the mind of the villager; after seeing electricity and knowing the way in which he could use it for agriculture, his thinking has further developed and he now feels why he should not take up small scale industries with the aid of the power that has now come to him. I am happy to say that the planners have also taken up the same project under the Third Plan. They feel that rural parts must be recognised for starting small-scale industries. This will go a long way to help the villagers to have a better living. As far as rural electrification is concerned, I feel that we have done our best during the course of the First and Second Five-Year Plan periods. Many who have observed this growth feel also that we have gone in the right direction.

As far as power demand is concerned, I have tried to bring out what will be our difficulties during the coming years. Whatever we may plan, whatever resources we may spend on this, and

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whatever the power that we may generate, I feel, looking into various reports and facts, that we may be running short of power during the closing years of the Third Plan period. That figure is somewhat frightening us. It will be to the extent of 6 lakhs of kilowatts of power at the end of the Third Plan. Anyone who looks at it casually may feel as if we are going to be in trouble. But I do not see any such serious trouble because we are trying our best to generate power as much as possible. Not only that; the Government of India, the Planning Commission and the Central Water Power and Irrigation body are well seized of the entire problem. They will definitely come to our aid. In this respect, when we were thinking in terms of finding out new sources for generating power, it was in this House about 3 years ago, that I started to mention that we might be requiring an atomic power station. Well, this thought of mine has gained ground and our case has been so well put up before the Government of India and the Planning Commission. Just 2 or 3 days ago, the Prime Minister when he was replying to the demands of Atomic Commission Establishments, stated, "The far South requires an atomic station and it is carefully under consideration." So with these hopes, I feel there is no fear that we will actually be seriously in shortage of power and nobody need have any fear, because I find the neighbouring States are so quick in offering power to the industrialists. But as far as Madras State is concerned, I definitely feel that as far as power shortage goes, it is not going to be a serious problem and we will be able to meet the demands. In that direction we are not only speeding up our programmes of construction, but also tapping all sources that are available to us. Now we have gone in for this Neyveli Lignite Project where power has to be generated during the Third Five-Year Plan. There is going to be an expansion scheme. There is the chance of getting atomic power plant and also the chance of getting the extra power from our demand. These are two points which I wanted to bring out specifically before hon. Members. There are many other problems like the work of the Electricity Board and the restrictions and the like, which I have myself raised in the report. I request hon. Members to give their valuable suggestions and I shall try to give a more detailed reply to the various points that are raised during the debate here. Last year, I assured this House that the Electricity Board would look into every point raised on the floor of the House. I can assure hon. Members that this assurance was followed by the Electricity Board and they have given a detailed note on what action they have taken on the various suggestions offered on the floor of this House. In the same manner, whatever suggestions come forth now will be looked into and acted on by the Electricity Board. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The subject is now open for discussion.
Sri T. P. Srinivasavaradan will now speak.

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SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Mr. Chairman, after hearing the Hon. Minister's speech, let me say that we can congratulate ourselves on the progress that has been made during the last ten years. No doubt our State plays an important part in the power development in India. The reason why we should congratulate the Government is, we have no such big rivers as we have in the North wherefrom we can get Hydro-electric power. We have no coal fields. No doubt we discovered recently Neiveli and we have no oil deposits, but still, we have been able to produce electricity on a very large scale. That is a thing to be congratulated upon. In spite of that, we have been repeatedly progressing. If we go to villages or towns, we find what great progress we have made in the field of electricity consumption, not only for domestic you go to villages or towns, you find how great progress we have purposes but also for industries. In the last four or five years industries have grown up on such a huge scale. Go to Coimbatore and you will see mill after mill rising every year and there is large consumption of electricity in one district alone. Now, thanks to the Industries Minister, industries have now spread throughout the State. Sir, the map is attached here (found in the book 'Power Development in Madras State under the Five-Year Plans') and a study of the map will reveal what steps are taken by the Electricity Board to connect the various projects, and how they tried to make up the deficiency in one part of the State by the excess in the other. Sir, in the Second Five-Year Plan the aim has been to lay emphasis on food production and expansion of industries through power development. I should like to state that so far as food production is concerned, in the Second Five-Year Plan period we have not had complete success in India. No doubt we have success, from the figures that we have—the amount of food produced, what was the shortage and soon. But we have not reached the target yet. Still, the demand for power is on the increase on account of water pumpsets. The Minister has rightly pointed out, the increase is going on. The water pumpsets are found everywhere : even in places where water could be found at a depth of 120 to 130 feet. Sir, my plea is this : People are very anxious to have these water pumpsets for cultivation. They apply in large numbers. I do not know whether the Hon. Minister knows that the paper does not move at all from one table to another. It takes months after months. Many many come and complain to me. You are very anxious and draw plans, and you want to implement them. But what happens? The paper corners for six months. He goes from this man to that man, from that man to this man and then at the last moment, he is told, "There is one certificate wanting. So your application is not complete". For that he is asked to go to the Tahsildar and get a certificate and then give it. Sir, will you kindly see that this is attended to as early as possible? Your aim is to give more pumpsets, produce more food and that aim will be frustrated if there is this long delay. Sir, one has got the

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pumpset. What about the electricity connection? One installs the pumpset, and everything is ready. But, for the power connection to be given it takes five months and six months. They say that the materials are not available. It takes a very long time to get electricity connection. There is very great delay. If these delays are avoided, I think rapid progress will be made.

Then, Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated, 'The Third Five-Year Plan for Madras State also gives a high priority for Power Development and provides for a total outlay of Rs. 100.19 crores on power schemes.' This is a very huge figure. Even this figure, the Hon. Minister has stated, is not at all sufficient, and that we require something more.

Sir, the Hon. Minister has said that the major weakness of the Madras Grid is its predominantly hydro-power output, which is bound up with irrigation and also depends on the vagaries of the monsoons. During the last five years, we have seen the vagaries of the monsoon. Every year when April comes, most agriculturists and industries fear that there will be a cut in power supply. This year the Hon. Minister postponed the cut as far as possible, and when he found it inevitable, he imposed a cut. That too was only for a fortnight, and the people were saved. Otherwise, the people would have blamed the Hon. Minister.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR: Now it is the other way about. They suffer from more water.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: The power cut was enforced only for a very brief period—a fortnight. But what were the immediate results of the power cut? Cement production went down. Textile production went down. Taking advantage of the cut that has been imposed, these cement factories said that there was no production and that there was shortage of cement. The price of cement increased. As a result of this, cement is now controlled. We cannot get cement freely in the market.

SRI P. T. RAJAN: One can get it in the black-market.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: People who have plenty of money can go to the black-market. People without money cannot afford to buy in the black-market. This is a thing which I should like to bring to the notice of the Government. The factory owners are responsible to a great extent for the rise in prices. They take every opportunity to put up the prices. They are not at all justified in doing so.

Then, Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated that, according to the Report of the State Working Group on Power Development in the Third Plan, the demand for power in Madras State at the end of the Third Plan will be of the order of 1,448 M.W. It has been

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stated in the printed book that taking all the resources available and the resources that may be available, there will still be a gap of 600 M.W. How are the Government going to bridge this gap? What steps are they going to take? They have stated that they have represented to the Central Government and the Planning Commission that an atomic power plant should be located in Madras. I hope they will succeed. If they are not successful in this, this big gap will entail more problems.

Sir, the Government must also see whether they can find other sources for filling up this gap. The Hon. Minister has stated, 'To supplement the power resources of the State, the Government are exploring the proposals made by some industrialists to establish thermal power stations in the private sector'. I wish the Government proceed in this direction. I wish the Government encourage more and more private people to establish thermal stations. I recently saw in the papers that people in Salem and Coimbatore had grouped themselves together, and that they were trying to establish a thermal power station. If this is so, I wish them all success. If the atomic power plant is not located in Madras, the Government must encourage the private sector to establish thermal stations.

Then, Sir, I thought the Hon. Minister would dilate upon the allocation of power supply. This is very important. If the Government allot more power to industries and less power to rural electrification, there will be the imbalance. The Government have appointed a committee to make proposals for balancing all these things. The sooner the committee come forward with proposals, the better it would be.

The next point which I would like to speak about is rural electrification. Very rapid progress has been made here. I should like to congratulate the Hon. Minister on this. When I go to villages, I recall to my mind how those villages were ten or fifteen years before, and how they appear now. Almost all the villages are electrified now. The Hon. Minister has rightly stated that rural electrification has, therefore, to play a significant role in promoting the rural economy of the State. We can start cottage industries. Of course, we have been saying that there should be cottage industries. But where are the cottage industries available? Even in places where they are, there are no skilled labourers. People must be trained to use the power. I find in the villages that people are not trained to use the power. During my visit to the West, I found in villages cottage industries growing very rapidly. They are all skilled workmen. Here, we give electric power. But if they are not skilled workers and do not know how to use the power, what is the good of giving power? If we want rural economy to develop, the best thing is to get men to train our people so that they can have cottage industries. I should like to bring this to the notice of the Government.

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The consumption for agricultural purposes is now more than one-fourth. It is stated that the *per capita* consumption of electricity which is a recognised index of the economic advance of any State increased in the Madras State from 12 units at the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan to 21 units at the end of the First Five-Year Plan and to 60 units by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan. The Hon. Minister has stated that one-fourth of the production of power is consumed by the agriculturists. More power is consumed by industries. It is something like taking the average of the per acre yield in Salem and Thanjavur. Salem may produce 500 kalamas and Thanjavur may produce 100 kalamas per acre. If we take the average it will mean 300 per acre. This is a misleading figure. The figure of 160 units is not consumed by all the factories.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: The hon. Member says that physically I must give power to every individual to the extent of 60 units. But I do not think any country calculates giving power to each individual. If the hon. Member reads paragraph 23 still further, he will see that mention is made about the *per capita* consumption of the order of 2,000 to 4,000 units in Western countries. This does not mean that each man gets 2,000 to 4,000 units. Industries also are included in this.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Out of the 2,000 to 4,000 units, at least 500 units each consumer will have. What is the good of having 10 units and 20 units out of 60? Of course, the Government are moving in the right direction. The people are not having as much electric power as is necessary for domestic consumption.

Then, Sir, the next point is with regard to the concessions to agricultural consumers. Already these concessions are not very good. But I should like to know whether they are given in good time at all. We do not get the concession at all. It takes two or three years to get a concession from the department. The Government give concessions, but whether these concessions are administered properly is the question.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Has the hon. Member got any complaint?

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: I shall forward these complaints, because people have represented to me that most of these concessions are only on paper and that they are not effectively given.

Then, Sir, I come to the levy of special guarantee from the agricultural consumers. The Government have reduced the guarantee from Rs. 50 to Rs. 45 and again to Rs. 35. The Government have divided the areas into forward and backward

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areas. You know what happened in a certain district? What was a backward area is now a forward area. Therefore, the people there have to pay Rs. 45. I think they originally paid Rs. 35, but the area has suddenly been upgraded as a forward area, and they have to pay Rs. 45. In one or two districts it has so happened. This is the complaint that has been made to me. But I think the Government will verify this. What was originally considered a backward area is now classified as a forward area, and the people have to pay a higher levy.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : There is progress.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : There was never a backward or forward area, before this Committee's report. Any area, which is considered backward or forward, has come to be recognised as such only after the report of the committee. Previously there was no question of forward area or backward area. There was no question of a backward area becoming a forward area later on. The latest decision of the Electricity Board is that there cannot be that change.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : The maximum special guarantee in the forward area was reduced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 45 per H.P. while that in the backward area has been reduced to Rs. 35 per H.P. Even here there is the question of backward area.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : If the hon. Member has got any concrete cases, he can bring them to my notice.

3-40
p.m.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : There are two areas, forward and backward. It has been pointed out that the demand for power for domestic purposes from the lower income groups grows up very rapidly. Really it should be so. I would naturally like to have all modern amenities. But I would request the authorities to reduce the tariff where people like to use electricity more and more. There is another point also. In these days the cost of fuel goes up every day by leaps and bounds. If electricity is given at a cheap rate, we shall all feel thankful to the Hon. Minister.

It has been stated that the grouping restrictions are being gradually removed. It is a good thing that they are removed. We are thankful to the Electricity Board and to the Hon. Minister for that.

About the development of licensees' areas, I find that the right step has been taken. The Government are giving loans to the licensees for taking electricity to the rural areas. I wish more and more help is given to them because if the Government were to do this work, it would take a long time. It is better that we utilise the machinery that is available.

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From the consumer's point of view, I should like to say one or two things. Firstly, the amount charged by the Electricity Board for giving new connections, executing repairs, shifting installations, etc., is disproportionately high to the labour put in. For half a day's work Rs. 35 is charged. If the consumer himself is allowed to engage labour, he can get it done at a very cheap rate. Secondly, the deposits demanded from consumers for execution of proposed works must bear some relation to the estimated expenditure. What really happens is this. If the cost is Rs. 10, the deposit demanded is Rs. 45. First the consumer has to pay Rs. 45 and the bill comes to only Rs. 10. To get back the Rs. 35, it takes six or eight months. This shows that the estimate has not been prepared properly. This is a thing which deserves looking into. Somebody prepares the estimate. Evidently he is not a qualified man. Otherwise, there would not be such a disparity. (An hon. Member: They are overcautious.) They may be overcautious for a few rupees. In another case, the cost is Rs. 50 and the deposit demanded is Rs. 100.

Recently there have been cases of electrocution. This is a thing which deserves to be looked into, from the human point of view. Of course, experts have to be consulted in this matter. They should be consulted as to how best to avoid such accidents.

Next, I should like to bring to the notice of the Government one thing. I have sympathy for the people working in this department. I went through the salary scales of employees in this department. I find the lower division clerk gets a pay of Rs. 50. There is the dearness allowance also. Anyway, it is less than the salary paid to the lower division clerk under the Government. The upper division clerk also is drawing less salary than that drawn by his counterpart under the Government. Will the Government kindly see that they are placed on a par with the Government employees? That is one of the grievances of the employees of this Board. I was a Headmaster. The grievance of these employees is this. The Government give concessions to everyone. Children of the employees of the Electricity Board are not given these concessions. At one stage, Government were prepared to give only half-fee concession to them. They gave full-fee concession next year. But it was given only towards the close of March, i.e., towards the end of the year. The Electricity Board is a quasi-Government department. Let it not be treated as entirely different from the Government. I would request the Government to put the employees of this Board on a par with the Non-Gazetted Government Officers, and extend all the concessions available to the Non-Gazetted Officers to the employees of this Board.

Once again, I should like to thank this Government and also the officers of the Electricity Board for the good service they have rendered. We can point out mistakes here and there. It is easy

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to point out loopholes. On the whole, they have rendered magnificent service. If some of the points referred to here are attended to, I think the people will be benefited.

*** SRI M. V. SUDARSANAM NAIDU :**

தலைவர் அவர்களே,

இந்த மின்சாரத் திட்டமானது நீண்ட நாட்களாக நமது மாகாணத்தில் குறைவாக இருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லி எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் ஒரே கிளர்ச்சியாக இருந்தது. இப்போது இந்தத் திட்டம் ரொம்ப முன்னேற்றம் அடைந்து மற்ற மாகாணங்களிலிட அதிக அளவில் மின்சாரம் பரப்பப்படும் நிலையில் இருப்பதாக அரசாங்கத்தினுடைய ரிபோர்ட்டில் இருக்கிறது. இதைப்பற்றி நாம் பெருமைப்பட வேண்டியதுதான். ஆனால் கிராமங்களில் பார்க்கும்போது குறை இருந்து கொண்டே இருக்கிறது. அதற்குக் காரணம் வேலை செய்வதில் கொஞ்சம் தாமதப் படுத்துகிறார்கள் என்பதுதான் என்னுடைய கருத்து. வேலை நடக்கிறது, நன்றாகவும் செய்கிறார்கள். இருந்தாலும் கூட ஓரளவுக்கு அயர்வு காரணமாக, சோர்வு காரணமாக தாமதம் ஏற்படலாம். ஒரு கம்பத்திலிருந்து இன்னொரு கம்பத்திற்கு கரண்டி கொடுப்பதற்கு ரொம்பக் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அம்மாதிரி தாமதமாகக் கொடுப்பதில் எவ்வளவு செய்தாலும் மக்களுக்குக் குறையேற்பட்டு அவர்கள் புகார் செய்கிறார்கள். இதை மின்சார போர்டார் கவனிக்க வேண்டும். அதைத்தான் நான் சொல்லிக் கொள்ள ஆசைப்படுகிறேன். மக்களிடத்தில் ஒரு விதமான கிளர்ச்சி இல்லாமல் நமக்குக் கிட்டத்தில் இருக்கும் இடத்திலிருந்துகொண்டே கொடுக்க சாத்தியமில்லை என்றால் அதற்குப் பலவிதமான காரணங்கள் இருக்கலாம். அதுமட்டுமல்லாமல் ஒரே கிராமத்தில் இருக்கும் ஒரே டிரான்சுபார்மலிலிருந்து மின்சாரம் எடுக்கும் சாத்தியம் இருந்தாலும் கூட தாமதம் ஆகிறது. இதை அரசாங்கம் கவனிக்க வேண்டும். இவ்வளவு பெரிய மகத்தான சாதனை செய்தும் மக்களிடத்தில் அறுவறுப்பு உண்டாவதற்குக் காரணம் தாமதம்தான். அதை நீக்கவேண்டும். மின்சார சப்ளை திட்டம் வந்ததால் நெய்வேலிபற்றி அதிகமாகக் குறிப்பிடுகிறார்கள். இதைப்பற்றிக் குறிப்பிடும்போது நாமெல்லாம் சந்தோஷப்படவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அதிலும் அது என்னுடைய ஜில்லா. அந்தத் திட்டத்தைக் கூடாதென்று பலர் கூக்குரலிட்டும் அதைச் செய்தே தீரவேண்டுமென்று முதல் அமைச்சர் முதல் முன்னாள் முதலமைச்சர் ரெட்டியார் அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் இன்னும் டி. டி. கிருஷ்ணமாச்சாரி முதற்கொண்டு அதற்கு ரொம்ப அரும்பாடு பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த சேவையானது இன்றைக்கு உலகம் பூராவிலும் பரிணமிக்கும்போது நாம் சந்தோஷப்படாமல் இருக்கமுடியாது. அது மட்டுமல்ல. இன்னும் முக்கியமாக வேலை செய்யும் திறனில் ஸ்ரீமான் ஸ்ரீனிவாசன் அவர்கள், மணி போன்றவர்கள் ரொம்பத் திறமையாக நிர்வாகத்தைப் போற்றக் கூடிய முறையில் நடத்தி வருகிறார்கள். அதை ஆர்வத்தோடு

22nd August 1961] [Sri M. V. Sudarsanam Naidu]

எவ்வளவு சுறுசுறுப்போடு செய்து முடிக்கிறோமோ அதில் நாம் பூரிப்படைகிறோம். குற்றம் குறை இருக்கத்தான் செய்யும். யார் செய்தாலும் குற்றம் இல்லாமல் செய்ய முடியாது. மற்றும் சந்தோஷமான செய்தி ஒன்று. நிலக் கரி அங்கு கிடைக்காதோ, கிடைத்தால் அதை எரி பொருளாக உபயோகப்படுத்த முடியுமோ முடியாதோ, இவ்வளவு பணம் செலவு செய்கிறார்களே என்று ஒரே புகாராக தெரிந்தவர்களுக்கும் தெரியாதவர்களும் சொன்னார்கள். ஏழு, எட்டு நாட்களுக்கு முன்பு நான் பேப்பரில் பார்த்தேன். கரியை எடுப்பதற்கு வசதியாக எல்லா ஏற்பாடுகளும் செய்தாகிவிட்டது. இனிமேல் கரி எடுக்கவேண்டியதுதான் என்று அறிவித்திருக்கிறார்கள். அது சம்பந்தமாக ஏதோ பரிசுகள் கொடுப்பதாகக் கூட பேப்பரில் பார்த்தேன். அது பார்ப்பதற்கு சந்தோஷமாக இருக்கிறது. அந்த வேலையானது எல்லோருடைய மனதிற்கும் திருப்தியும் சந்தோஷமும் உண்டெண்ணும் என்பது மட்டுமல்ல, நமது மாகாணத்தில் எல்லோரும் திருப்திப் படுவார்கள். பெரிய அவநம்பிக்கைக்குப் பாத்திரமாகாமல் கரி தோண்டி வதில் வெற்றி கிடைத்திருக்கிறது என்ற செய்தி நமக்கு சந்தோஷத்தைத் தருகிறது.

* SRI O. P. RAMASWAMY REDDIAR : மேலே கொஞ்சம் தெரிகிறது. அதை வைத்துக்கொண்டு முடிவு கட்டிவிடுவதா?

* SRI M. V. SUDARSANAM NAIDU : அதைப்பற்றி எனக்குத் தெரியாது. நான் விசாரித்தேன். அவர்கள் சொல்வதைப் பார்க்கும்போது அது உற்சாகம் தருவதாக இருக்கிறது. அதனால் அதைச் சொல்லாமல் இருக்க முடியவில்லை. அதோடு நமது மாகாணத்தில் இவ்வளவு பெரிய சக்தியை வளர்த்துப் பயன் தரக் கூடிய வகையில் காரியங்கள் செய்துவரும் நமது மின்சார அமைச்சர் அவர்களையும் மற்றுமுள்ள இஞ்சினியர்களையும் ஊழியர்களையும் நாம் பாராட்டாமல் இருக்கமுடியாது. அவர்களுக்கு இன்னும் மேலும் மேலும் உற்சாகத்தோடு நாம் ஊக்கமளிக்கவேண்டும். அடித்தளத்தில் வேலை செய்கிற இஞ்சினியர்களும், கீழ்நிலை உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களும் இன்னும் நன்றாக வேலை செய்து தங்கள் உழைப்பைக் கொடுத்து மக்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு இத்தோடு முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

* SRI M. SESHACHARIAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while congratulating the Hon. Minister on the extraordinary achievements that have been made, I would like to mention one or two things. The total capital outlay on various schemes comes to about one hundred crores of rupees or a little more. Probably it is much more now.

DISCUSSION ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR 1961-62 AND SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL
STATEMENT FOR 1960-61 OF THE MADRAS STATE
ELECTRICITY BOARD

[Sri M. Seshachariar] [22nd August 1961]

(Deputy Chairman in the Chair).

In spite of that huge outlay, from the financial statement given to us, we can see that there will practically be no profit. The entire revenue that is sought to be collected according to the statement is about Rs. 16 crores or so or a little more, that is, about Rs. 16 crores and 66 lakhs of rupees. Probably it gave about 6½ per cent return in the year 1959-60 on our investments. This year it looks as though it may not be so much. It may not be anything at all. In this connection, we have got to remember that hereafter there will be no free audit at all. The Accountant-General has got to be paid for the work. The privilege the Board had up till now will not be granted to them and the entire audit to be done by the Accountant-General has got to be paid for. Therefore, I should think that for the investment that we have made there is going to be very little return. And we are not able to find the cause for this. It may be due to large establishment or due to leakage in revenue or some kind of defect in the matter of collection.

In the matter of collections also, what I can see is this. Even in the revised estimate that has been given I find in a number of cases a larger amount is given in regard to revenue. That is what I see from the report in the revised estimate. It is so in the case of Pykara scheme, Mettur scheme and other schemes. It is much more in the revised estimate than what is noted in the Budget for the year. It is Rs. 65 lakhs in the revised estimate, while it is only Rs. 62 lakhs in the Budget estimate for 1960-61. That is the kind of revenue that is collected. I do not know whether revenue could not be collected at all.

There is also along with this the asset of Rs. 1½ crores. That is an asset which has not been collected by the Government. One thing we have got to understand. So far as the Government are concerned, they have an extended period of limitation. But so far as the Board are concerned, they have to file a suit within three years. The Government can collect within 60 years but the Board have to collect it within three years. Therefore, difficulties may arise when the Board allows arrears to accumulate. They may not be able to collect anything at all and ultimately you will have to write off the uncollected amount. Already there is a legacy of Rs. 1½ crores. I do not know whether they will be able to collect it or not. That is the present position with regard to the assets.

As regards collection, what I find from the statements given is, the revenue is decreasing. I do not know why in spite of the fact that when we supply power at the rate of about 10,000 pump-sets every year the collections should be so low. Now we have

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got 1,16,000 pumpsets or so. In spite of that, the revenue is decreasing. I wish the Hon. Minister goes into this matter and sees to it that the amounts are collected properly and also the levies are made properly.

There has been a lot of discussion about the unconnected minimum charges. The Hon. Minister also has been good enough to mention in the statement that it has been given up. But the matter is not exactly like that. I find there are a number of suits filed for dismantling charges, etc. This unconnected minimum is a thing that has been there for a very long time because the man has not been able to take supply for some reason or other. Now the Government say that they have given it up. But what is stated to be for the purpose of dismantling is a large amount and the department is taking steps to collect it. In certain cases the amount might be small but in certain other cases it is large. Besides this, there is also the other difficulty which was mentioned by others, the minimum guarantee trouble. The Government said that this minimum guarantee also would be waived in certain cases. But there does not seem to be any rationale behind it. The people, generally the agriculturists, are hopelessly illiterate. But the Government want them to apply and get certificates for this, that and so on, in regard to the application for concession. It is not possible for the agriculturists, the illiterate agriculturists, to comply with all these conditions. There are the Assistant Engineers, the line Supervisors and any number of persons in the sub-station who could say whether there was water in a particular well or not. Usually in the month of July the wells get dry and there is a very small quantity of water if at all available. There is, therefore, very little of consumption of power during that period. But, unfortunately, when a guarantee is given in respect of horse power, he has to pay the minimum guarantee. That, I think, has got to be rationalised and rectified, if possible, and some other method should be adopted in regard to this. There are however, some clever people who write to the Engineer with certificate and all that as soon as the water level falls down. But there are a host of others who are not in a position to do that. Therefore it is that we should rectify this. Though the Government with the best of intentions give certain concessions to these agriculturists, they are not able to enjoy it because they are not in a position to apply at the correct time when there is no water.

Another small difficulty which I would like to mention is this. You would have seen wooden posts planted for carrying the overhead lines. In my taluk of Sriperumbudur, they had planted only wooden poles about five or six years ago. They have not been removed and replaced by concrete posts. I think it is high time they are removed and concrete posts are put in.

[Sri M. Seshachariar] [22nd August 1961]

One other local difficulty I wanted to refer to is this. Usually the low tension lines are taken through forests and casuarina plantations. When there is heavy rain or blast of wind, the whole thing collapses and there is difficulty caused in getting supply of power. The poor man in charge of the sub-station has no conveyance to enable him to attend to the repairs. If the conveyance is given for two or three stations together, and if there is the same difficulty in the other places, they may not get the conveyance in time to attend to repairs. For Sriperumbudur sub-station van is allotted at Thiruvallur. If they have also the trouble at the same time and another applies, he may not be in a position to get the conveyance. I have been saying that at least a motor-cycle should be given to them, so that they can move out immediately and find out the trouble and set it right. There are people who can walk along the line. But it will all take time. Therefore, in regard to this matter, I would say we must give a conveyance to each station so that the things could be rectified without much difficulty and in time.

Thank you, Sir.

4.00
p.m.

* SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்த மின்சார பட்ஜெட் விஷயமாகச் சில விஷயங்களைச் சொல்ல நான் ஆசைப்படுகிறேன். முதலில், நமது அரசாங்கத்தார் நமது தமிழ் நாட்டுக்கு மின்சாரத்துறையில் எவ்வளவு அபிவிருத்தி செய்ய முடியுமோ அவ்வளவும் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை நாம் நன்றி யுடன் பாராட்டிக் கடமைப்பட்டுள்ளோம்.

அடுத்தபடியாக, இப்போது நமக்கு மின்சாரம் இன்னும் அதிகமாகத் தேவைப்படுகிறது என்பதை மந்திரி அவர்களே ஒத்துக் கொண்டார்கள். அத்தேவை நாம் எதிர்பார்க்கிற அளவுக்கு மேலே தான் போகும் என்பதில் சந்தேகம் இல்லை என்று தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். இருந்தாலும் நாம் எவ்வளவுக் கெவ்வளவு அதிகமாக மின்சாரத்தை உற்பத்தி செய்கிறோமோ அவ்வளவுக்கவ்வளவு தான் நாடு முன்னேறும் என்பதை ஒப்புக்கொள்ள வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இந்த நிலைமையில் நாம் எந்தெந்த வகையில் எவ்வளவு அதிகமாக மின்சாரம் உற்பத்தி செய்யத் தயாராக இருக்கிறோமோ, அவ்வளவையும் பயன்படுத்த சந்தர்ப்பம் ஏற்படும் என்பதை அரசாங்கம் உணர்ந்திருக்கிறது. அதற்கு ஆவன செய்ய வேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

அடுத்தபடியாக, சில குறைகளைச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். அவைகளை 'குறைகள்' என்று எடுத்துக் கொள்ளாமல், அவற்றை நிவர்த்தி செய்ய அரசாங்கம் வழிகாணுதல் நலமாக இருக்கும். முதலில் விவசாயத்துக்குத் தான் அதிகமாக மின்சாரம் கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று விரும்புகிறோம். கொடுத்துக் கொண்டும் வருகிறோம். விவசாயத்தைப் பொறுத்தவரை, மந்திரி அவர்களே

22nd August 1961] [Sri M. Subbiah Chettiar]

சொன்னார்கள். மழை இன்மை போன்ற இயற்கைக் காரணங்களால் தொந்தரவு ஏற்படுகிறது. அதனால் மார்ச்-ஏப்ரல் மாதங்களில் அதிக மின்சாரம் கிடைக்க வசதி இல்லாமல் சிரமப்பட வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. முக்கியமாக விவசாயத்துக்கு, அதிலும் காட்டுப் பிரதேசங்களில், மின்சாரம் அதிகம் தேவைப்படுவது மார்ச்-ஏப்ரல் மாதங்களில் தான். அதற்கு எந்தவித ரெஸ்ட்ரிக்ட்ஷனும் இல்லாமல், அந்த டயத்தில் நிறைய மின்சாரம் கொடுத்தால், விவசாயம் அபிவிருத்தி அடைவதுமல்லாமல், விவசாயிகளுக்கும் பலன் ஏற்படும் என்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். அப்படியே செய்வார்கள் என்றும் நம்புகிறேன். விவசாயிகளுக்கு விதித்திருக்கும் கட்டணத்தைக் குறைத்து, மேலும் இல்லாமல் செய்தால் கூட நலமாக இருக்கும். ஏனென்றால் நம் நாட்டில் ஏழை விவசாயிகள் தான் ஜாஸ்தி. அதற்கு ஆவன செய்ய வேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறேன்.

அடுத்தபடியாக, மின்சாரம் ஒரு வீட்டுக்கோ அல்லது விவசாயத்திற்கோ தேவையாக இருந்தால், அது கூடிய சீக்கிரம் கிடைத்துவிடும் என்று நம்புவதற்கு இப்போது உள்ள வழிவகைகள் சரியாக இல்லை. ஒரு விவசாயி ஒரு அப்ளிகேஷன் போட்டால் பல மாதங்கள், ஏன் வருஷக்கணக்கில் கூட, காத்திருக்க வேண்டிய நிலைமை இருக்கிறது. அவர்களுக்கு 1 மாதம், 2 மாதம், அல்லது 3 மாதத்திற்குள்ளேயாவது கிடைக்க ஒரு திட்டம் வகுத்தால் நலமாக இருக்கும். இப்போது ஒரு விவசாயி அப்ளிகேஷன் போட்டவுடன் ரெவினியூ டிபார்ட்மெண்டுக்குப் போக வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. பிறகு P.W. டிபார்ட்மெண்டுக்குப் போக வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அடுத்தபடியாக கலெக்டர் ஆபீஸ், இன்னும் எலக்டிரிசிடி டிபார்ட்மெண்டு இவைகளுக்கு எல்லாம் சுற்றி, கடைசியில் கனெக்ஷன் கொடுக்கும் போது, ஏதாவது காரணத்தைச் சொல்லி தள்ளிப் போடுகிறார்கள். இது இல்லாமல் எல்லோரும் ஒத்துழைத்து சீக்கிரம் மின்சாரம் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்தால், விவசாயிகள் அரசாங்கத்தைப் பாராட்ட சௌகரியமாக இருக்கும் என்று சொல்லிக் கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். அதேமாதிரி வீட்டு கனெக்ஷனுக்கும் மின்சாரம் கிடைப்பதில் பலவித இடைஞ்சலும் இன்னலும் ஏற்படுகின்றன. அதைத் தடுத்து நல்ல முறையில் வழிவகைகள் செய்தால் நல்ல மாதிரி இருக்கும் என்று சொல்லிக் கொண்டு இந்த சந்தர்ப்பம் கொடுத்ததற்கு நன்றி தெரிவித்துக் கொண்டு முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Does any hon. Member wish to speak now?

(No. hon. Member rose).

The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned.